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BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.

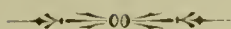


Medical Officer's
Annual Report.

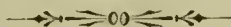


1919.

BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.



Medical Officer's Annual Report.



March, 1920.

Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 1919, for the Borough of Basingstoke, the contents and arrangements of which are in the order required by the Ministry of Health and set out in their Memorandum issued to Medical Officers of Health throughout the Country.

Population.

The Population of the Borough, according to the census returns of 1911, was 11,540, the population is now estimated to be 12,500.

Physical Features of the District.

Basingstoke is situate 300 feet above sea level, and occupies the two slopes facing North and South and the intervening valley of the River Loddon. It has chiefly a subsoil of chalk, with narrow strata of clay in some places. The climate is bracing, the surrounding country is under cultivation, and with the exception of downlands in the South is well wooded.

Social Conditions and Occupation of Inhabitants.

The chief occupations of the Inhabitants are Mercantile, Artisan (Engineering, Building and Textile trades), and Labouring, there is no particular occupation detrimental to health.

The number of persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief within the Borough for the past year were 127. The amount paid out in relief in respect of same was £822 3s. 0d.

Number of persons who received "Medical Relief only" during the year ended 31/12/19, was 20. Amount spent as "Medical Relief only"—£1 7s. 7d.

The Cottage Hospital, with accommodation and beds for 27 patients maintained by voluntary subscriptions, treated during the year 242 patients from the Borough.

Free treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculous Diseases under the direction of Dr. Lyster, County Medical Officer of Health, is given at the County Council Dispensary, 22, London Street.

Veneral Diseases.

The Hampshire County Council have made arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases at several centres. If these facilities are used to the fullest extent, there is every reason to believe that such diseases could be considerably reduced with enormous benefit to the general public health. It is shortly intended to establish a clinic in Basingstoke.

Vital Statistics.

There were 134 deaths, giving a death-rate of 10.53 per 1000 (population 12,720), as against 12.04 in 1918.

The number of infants dying under 1 year was 13, as against 14 in 1918.

The number of births was 229 (Males 116, Females 113), as against 225 in 1918.

There were 15 illegitimate births (males 6, females 9), as against 10 in 1918.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
All causes	62	72
Whooping Cough	1	0
Influenza	5	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	6
Cancer, malignant disease	3	10
Rheumatic Fever	1	1
Meningitis	1	0
Organic Heart Disease	5	16
Bronchitis	7	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	3
Other respiratory diseases	1	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	0
Appendicitis, Typhilitis	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4	5
Congenital Debility, etc.	5	1
Violence, apart from Suicide	2	2
Suicide	1	0
Other defined diseases	19	18
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total	9	4
Illegitimate		1

The following cases were notified during the year —

Tuberculosis—Three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis as against seven in 1918.

Scarlet Fever—Eleven cases as against 21 cases in 1918.

Measles—Eight cases as against 37 cases in 1918.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—One case, both eyes, recovery, as against one case in 1918.

Pneumonia, following Influenza—Three cases.

Malaria—One case (Military).

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained from a well sunk at a site at West Ham, and is amply sufficient for all requirements. The yearly report on the chemical and bacteriological analyses of the water is very satisfactory, and states it to be a hard but pure supply.

Rivers and Streams.

No River or Stream is being polluted. The condition of the Loddon leaves much to be desired, both from the point of view of safety and hygiene, the practice of the occupiers of houses adjacent thereto of throwing tins and rubbish of all kinds into the stream still continues in spite of the warnings and notices sent out by the Council with a view to prevention, the result of such a condition of things during the summer months being, besides almost immediately undoing the work of cleansing undertaken by the Council, bad smells and unsightly accumulations of rubbish of all kinds which cannot be otherwise than a menace and danger to the health of the children in the neighbourhood.

I would suggest that the Council undertake the piping-in of certain sections year by year at their discretion, so that in the course of four or five years the whole could be properly covered in, or otherwise suitably channelled, and an eyesore and possible danger be removed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage is carried by pipe drains to the Sewage Pumping Station, whence it is pumped on to the Sewage Farm where it is dealt with by broad irrigation on an area of 23 acres. The land is eminently suited for the purpose, and the acquirement by the Council of additional land now in process of negotiation, if brought to a successful conclusion, will meet the requirements of the Town for many years.

Closest Accommodation.

There are still some localities within the Borough at present too far away to be connected up to the water carriage sewerage system, there are no privy middens. Those in Goat Lane and the Wharf having been converted to water closets and connected up. There are 36 houses with pail closets, these being at Southlea, Worting bottom and Kingsclere Road.

There are 56 houses draining into cesspools, these being at Sherborne Road, Kempshott Village and Winklebury, the remaining 2687 houses are water closets drained to the main water carriage system.

Scavenging.

The Refuse of the Town is being satisfactorily dealt with, some 2000 tons being disposed of annually by the Destructor. Removal of House Refuse is by public scavenger, who collects weekly, instead of twice weekly as was the practice before the war. I hope the time will soon arrive when labour and haulage difficulties will allow of the collection being twice weekly as before.

It is to be hoped that the Bye-Laws relating to the provision of proper galvanized iron dust bins, passed by the Council in 1914, will be immediately put into operation so that the present unsightly and insanitary receptacles now generally used for the storage of House refuse may be done away with.

Food.

The Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds were regularly inspected.

Bakehouses were regularly inspected and found to be well kept and limewashed.

Slaughter Houses.—These were regularly inspected and found to be well kept. There has not been so much slaughtering done in the past few years, the Butchers having to take a large proportion of imported meat and such cattle as may be allotted by the Government Commissioner.

Some of the Slaughter houses are structurally bad and, being surrounded by houses, in some cases leave much to be desired. The inspection of meat where slaughtering is done at different times and places suggest that the only proper and efficient method should be the provision of a Public Slaughter house owned and supervised by the Council.

Samples of Food taken under the Food and Drugs Act, during the year 1919, in the Borough by the C.C. Inspector :—

		Adulterated.
Beef Sausages	3	
Butter	6	
Coffee		2
Invalid Jelly	1	
Lard	4	
New Milk	21	3
Pork Sausages	1	
Sugar	2	
Vinegar	2	
Sample No. 2/5122, Coffee, excess water,		153 %
„ 2/5123, „ „		175 %
No action taken.		
Sample No. 2/5260, New Milk, deficient in Milk Solids	2.7 %	
Sample No. 2/2561, New Milk, deficient in Milk Solids	3.8 %	
No proceedings taken.		
Sample No. 2/5272, New Milk, deficient in Milk Solids	8.4 %	
Case heard at Basingstoke Borough Petty Sessions 29/7/19, and dismissed.		

The following was found to be unfit for the food of man and afterwards destroyed :—

Bacon	2103 pounds
Meat	308 „
Fish	1232 „
Lobsters	13 „
Dates	427 „
Crabs	44

Milk (Mothers and Childrens) Order, 1918.

The Council not having adopted the Registration of Births Act at the time it came into operation, the Order is being administered by the County Council as the Local Authority in this area.

Isolation Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for 42 patients in three isolated blocks, each consisting of two wards with lavatories and kitchen. The largest block can give beds for 26 cases, usually set apart for Scarlet Fever cases. The two smaller blocks can accommodate 8 cases in each block. The administration block has ample accommodation for the nursing staff in normal times.

The number of cases admitted for the year was 21 as against 62 in 1918, 12 cases from the Urban District, and 9 cases from the Rural District.

Analysis of Cases:—

Urban District—Scarlet Fever,	11.
Diphtheria,	1.
Rural District—Scarlet Fever	9.

There were no deaths.

The work of the Staff has been most satisfactory.

Housing.

The Housing accommodation for people of the working classes in the Borough is very insufficient, the number of new houses erected in 1919 being three only.

The average annual increase in the population for the past five years before the war being 160 persons.

The number of dwelling houses in the district is 2779.

Average number of working class houses built annually during the five years before the war was 29.

Number of working class houses built between January 1st, 1915, and December 31st, 1918, 26.

It was found on making house to house enquiry in the town West of Church Street, and in the other parts of the town from the Sugar Card records, that a shortage of houses existed which is estimated to be 242, at the same time it is probable that the whole of the 242 families will not enter into tenancy agreements as the rent which must of necessity be high, it may be found that many of them will not be able to afford the rent.

To meet the need the Council have prepared a scheme for the erection of 209 houses, and purchased land of nearly 20 acres in extent, and part of the material has been deposited on the site and the work begun.

It will be seen from the following list that many of the persons in apartments are married couples—

153	2 persons
52	3 ,,
25	4 ,,
9	5 ,,
1	7 ,,
2	8 ,,

242

The number of persons ascertained to be in apartments, and those estimated to be affected by the closing of houses considered to be unfit for human habitation is as follows—

In apartments	616 persons
17 Unfit houses	83 ,,
	<hr/> 699

The overcrowding occurs chiefly in those houses with two or three bedrooms, where the family have out-grown the accommodation, and one of the children having married, the young married couple is still living with the parents until able to obtain a home of their own, and also where part of the house has been let as apartments to strangers, no doubt in course of time, when cottages become available, this will right itself. It is not intended in the present condition of things to take any action in the matter.

Taking the estimated population at 12,500, the average number of persons per house is 4.5 for the whole of the district, and when the Military were at Park Prewett, with many of their friends resident in the town, and the workmen at the Asylum also in apartments or lodgings, the number did not then reach an average of 5 per house.

Owing to the shortage of material and labour, incidental to the war, the Housing Acts were not enforced in the Borough to that extent which otherwise would have been the case had things been more normal, but, doubtless, the provisions of the Act will be more energetically applied in the coming year.

There were 209 houses inspected under the Housing Acts, of which 133 were dealt with under notices served upon owners by the Sanitary Inspector, for the details of which I must refer you to the appended Report.

The defects more generally met with in working class dwellings are dampness, defective floors and roofs, dirty walls and ceilings, defective grates, absence of wash-house accommodation, inside sinks, more than one house using one tap generally situate in yard outside, want of proper food store with light and ventilation, back yards and passages not properly paved and drained, woodwork requiring to be repainted.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Sustained interest in the Infant Welfare Centre is proved by the attendances, which have increased to 2761 for the year. These include Mothers and children under five years of age.

The purchases of dried Milk at reduced cost amounted to 550lbs.

A visit of a good Travelling Health Exhibition was arranged in March. Admission to the public being free in the afternoons, and during the mornings about 600 children, over the age of 12, from the Secondary and Elementary Schools came in six parties accompanied by their Masters and Mistresses

No Local Baby Show was carried out in 1919, but the Centre entered four selected children for the "Daily Sketch" Competition.

There are now usually two trained Nurses at the Centre every week who reside in the town and are qualified Health Visitors.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. REES-THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health-

BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.

Inspector of Nuisances Report.

Town Hall, Basingstoke,

March, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report of work done in this department for the year ending December, 1919.

There are 9 Slaughter Houses on the Register, 5 Licensed and 4 Registered Slaughter Houses. These have been regularly inspected, the floors are thoroughly cleansed after slaughtering, and all offal promptly removed from the premises, the Bye-Laws regulating Slaughter Houses have been generally well observed.

There are 20 Milk Vendors, Dairymen and Cow Keepers on the Register. Their premises were periodically inspected, and were found to be well and cleanly kept.

There are 20 Bakehouses on the Register. These have been periodically visited, and were generally found to be kept in a cleanly state.

The Common Lodging House, with lodging accommodation for 58 persons, has been regularly visited, the Bye Laws regulating Common Lodging Houses have been well observed by the Keeper. The premises are Limewashed yearly, and the place is kept in a cleanly state, and generally well conducted.

There are 27 Factories and 106 Workshops on the Register. Two Clothing Establishments have sent four lists of outworkers with a total of 185 persons. These have been visited periodically, and their premises, with one or two exceptions, were found to be kept in a wholesome condition.

209 Houses have been inspected under the Housing Act, 1909. 133 Houses have been dealt with under notice when defects were remedied as shewn in the following summary :—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Inspections and Re-visits	...	2087
Complaints	34
Notices	245
Nuisances abated	77
Rooms coloured	79
Ceilings whitened	303
Rooms papered	172
Woodwork re-painted	14
Walls cemented or plastered	43
Roofs repaired	37
Floors repaired	16
New doors or repaired	15
Yards paved	4
W.C.'s rebuilt or repaired	16
Flushing apparatus	17
Inspection covers to drains	1
Smoke test applied to drains	6
Water do.	1
New or partly new drains	4
W.C. Pans	4
New seat or riser	5
Drains cleared of obstruction	17
Offensive deposits removed	4
New traps	4
Lots of bedding disinfected	17
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	17

I am again pleased to report that my duties have been carried out in an amiable and friendly manner as far as possible. It has not been necessary to resort to litigation, but the delay in carrying out the directions of the Health Committee has rendered necessary the serving of Statutory Notices in some cases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. DAVIES,

Inspector of Nuisances.

